



MPC Highlights

February 2024
Newsletter of Milwaukie Presbyterian Church

Pastor's Message

by *Katie Pate*

Dear MPC Community,

After last month's storms, I kept reminding myself wind helps trees grow stronger. This theory was proven by Biosphere 2, an artificial Earth that served as a research lab. At first, trees grew fast under those so-called ideal conditions. But in time, they stopped growing. Their root systems simply weren't strong enough to sustain true growth. In the same way, the struggles we survive have the potential to help us grow in grace and maturity.



On multiple levels, this is a season of rebuilding at MPC. The past few years have not been easy for anyone. Change has come to us in so many ways. Together, we are in a position of deciding how we want to maintain beloved traditions while being open to the new thing that God is doing among us.

New growth is sprouting around our building as rooms are updated and spaces are reclaimed for ministry. Backpack Buddies is back with a whole new direction, supporting families in the Lake Road Head Start ([see p. 3](#)). Our new staff members are building relationships with longtime staff and parishioners, continuing to grow into their roles. During Lent, we will hold a new member class and welcome newcomers into our church community ([see p. 6](#)). In the office, we are updating our communication systems, working on keeping you connected to MPC.

I'm so proud of our community, and all of the ways that we love and serve together. You all are doing great work. I love seeing the supportive environment you create for one another!

Grace be with you,

Pastor Katie Pate

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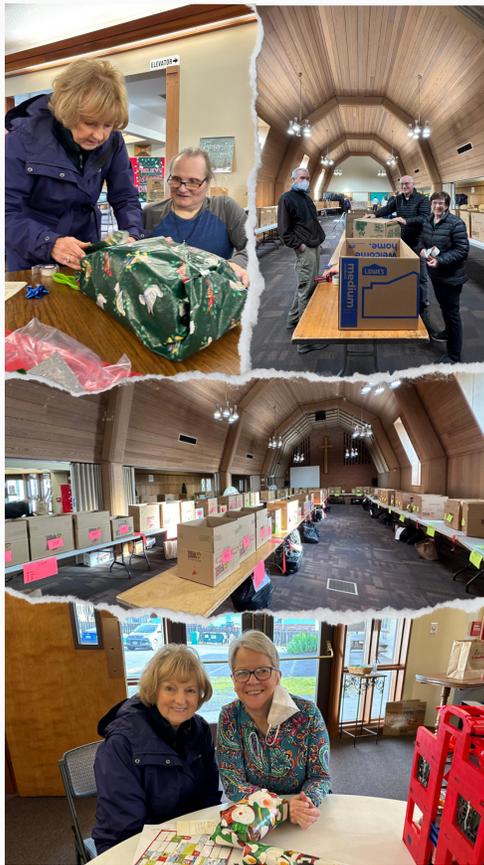
OUTREACH AND MISSION UPDATES

Christmas Joy Offering

by Linda Marquam, Outreach Chair



Thank you for supporting the Christmas Joy Offering with your donations of \$490. This offering provides emergency grants to retired Presbyterian personnel and their families. It also provides scholarship support to students at Menaul School and Stillman College and other Presbyterian-related schools and colleges equipping communities of color.



Christmas Boxes 2023

by Linda Marquam

Congratulations! Thanks to your contributions and physical work, our Christmas drive was so successful. In all, we were able to provide the following to 125 households:

- 19 adults: \$50 gift card & small gift
- 55 families: \$50 gift card & toys
- 40 families: gifts, food box, \$15 gift card, non-SNAP paper & soap products
- 20 teenagers: supplemental items, in conjunction with CIACC
- Stockings for under-18 people, gifted by Abby Richardson's class



SON Network

by Linda Marquam

Thanks to all who provided meals to our SON families at this meaningful time of year. They really appreciate our support – someone they don't know or have any connection to providing a bit of care and hope. Save the date! Our next time for providing meals this season will be Feb. 19 through Mar. 1.

OUTREACH AND MISSION UPDATES

Backpack Buddies

by Cherie Kennedy

Backpack Buddies for the Lake Road Head Start has begun! The first food distribution was Jan. 24. The other dates for this school year are: Feb. 28, Mar. 20, Apr. 24, May 22, and June 26.

At this time, we are supplying one bag of food for each of the 20 families every month containing: a small bag of snacks, a box of cereal (alternating dry cereal and instant oatmeal), canned or fresh fruit, and items for either a lunch or dinner meal. We are trying to keep the cost to about \$10.00 worth of food each month.

We have specific food requests for February, March and April. At Donation Corner in the narthex, there are sign up sheets where you can volunteer to donate:

- fresh fruits or vegetables (packaged by you)
- spaghetti sauce seasoning packets
- cans of tuna
- saltine crackers
- canned peaches (15 ounce)
- canned green beans (15 ounce)

If you would like to help, contact me at ckennedy88@hotmail.com – there's always room for more volunteers. Thanks to all our volunteers and everyone who has donated food or money to this program!



Volunteer with MPC

Join us in serving our neighbors and community:

- Help with worship as a liturgist or Zoom host: use the sign-up sheet in the narthex, or send an email to office@milwaukiepres.org.
- Sign up to bring treats to share or help serve coffee at coffee hour (in person).
- Volunteer at a Second Saturday Grounds Clean-Up, 9-11 am at MPC.
- Join the choir, Wednesdays at 7 pm and Sundays at 9 am, September through May.
- Sign up to be a volunteer in the nursery when our childcare workers are away. (Background check required).

Email Outreach Chair Linda Marquam at bljmarq@hotmail.com or Hospitality Chair Gail Medeiros at gail_medeiros@yahoo.com to ask about other service opportunities.

FELLOWSHIP AND OTHER EVENTS

Christmas Pageant & Advent Festival Thanks

by Sabina Spicer, Director of Youth and Children's Ministries

Thanks to all who participated in the Ugly Sweater Christmas Pageant and the Advent Festival. It takes full participation to make traditions happen and these days were no exception! We hope you enjoyed hearing the story told in new ways. For years to come, we will have our snow globes to remind us of that fun-filled day.



FELLOWSHIP AND OTHER EVENTS

MPC Choir

by Molly Kerns, Music Director



What a joyful and musical season it has been at MPC! Thank you to all of our “regulars” in Chancel Choir. I also wanted to take this opportunity to thank our recent additions to the core group. Welcome to the MPC music community, Frank Beaty! We are also lucky to have the mighty return of Tom Muti to the group. You both add so much to our ensemble. Your participation allows us to explore a wider range of music. Thank you!

We owe another thank you to our visiting members over the Christmas season. Thank you Claire Hobson and Helen Babbitt for joining us for Sing One Sunday! It was such a joy having your voices join ours in song. Thank you Nathan Muti for joining us on Christmas Eve for your and Tom’s beautiful guitar version of Silent Night. I think we can all agree that your music was a real gift to us all.

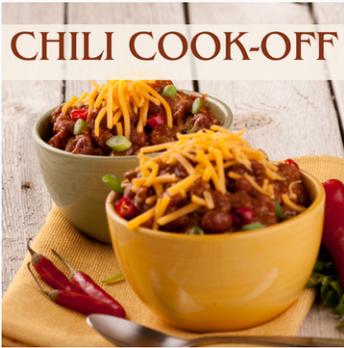
I feel so lucky to be a part of the MPC community, a community who welcome new folks from all walks of life to come together and create something beautiful. Thank you for a joyous (and musical) holiday season!

De-Greening of the Sanctuary

A big thank you to everyone who helped with the De-Greening of the Sanctuary on January 28: Julie Bauder, Frank Beaty, Andi Coover, Cheryl Decker, Rusty Garrison, Ken Goe, Kelley Gutman, Lynette Hall, Aidan Jenkins, Christopher Jenkins, Ella Jenkins, Erin Jenkins, Molly Kerns, Mark Neher, Carolee Neighorn, Katie Pate, Sabina Spicer, and Shirley Stageberg. You are the best!



FELLOWSHIP AND OTHER EVENTS



Chili Cook-Off

Sun., Feb. 4, 5-7 pm

It's baaaaack! Let's bring back the Chili Cook-off with prizes like a trophy, a ribbon, and bragging rights! Bring your chili to share and we will provide the toppings, spoons, drinks and napkins. Join us in the Fellowship Hall for a 5 pm dinner, followed by voting, games, and making Valentines.



Fellowship Art Project

Sun., Feb. 18, after worship

Stay with us after worship, when we will have an art project for everyone in the community to participate in, creating a vibrant meditation on love and prayer in this season of Lent.

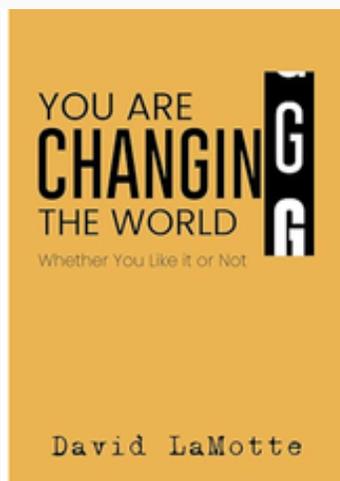


Online Lenten Dinner

Sun., Feb. 25, 6 pm

Bring your dinner and Zoom with us. Winter is the perfect opportunity to play games and trivia from the comfort of our own homes! [Click here to join the Zoom Dinner.](#)

FELLOWSHIP AND OTHER EVENTS



Courageous Conversations Lenten Study

by Katie Pate, Pastor

You Are Changing the World Whether You Like it or Not by David LaMotte

Mondays at 7 pm on Zoom, beginning Feb. 12

“This book serves as an antidote to the hopelessness so many of us feel about our world today. ...Through his many examples of communities of ordinary people who are demonstrating that disparate people with differing opinions can live in harmony, LaMotte encourages us to find our own way out of cynicism and despair.” - Kathleen Norris

Drawing on stories from his own work and interviews with others, LaMotte challenges narratives that keep us immobile in the face of problems that confront communities, nations, and the world. *You Are Changing the World* is challenging, encouraging and inspiring. LaMotte helps us to discern both our potential to have an impact and how we go about getting started. Anyone who wants to live a life that matters will find something of value here.

A generous funder has offered to purchase copies of the book for those who need it. Contact me for more information.

Membership Class

by Katie Pate

Have you been attending Milwaukie Presbyterian for some time? We invite you to experience belonging through church membership.

Our membership class is an opportunity to find out more about who we are and what we believe. It is a great way to learn about the Presbyterian tradition, get plugged in to MPC, and see why committing and belonging to the church through membership can help you and others in many ways. Even if you decide not to join, we hope you learn something new and feel more connected here.

On Feb. 25, we will host our membership class from 7:15-8:30 PM on Zoom. Contact me for details, pastor@milwaukiepres.org.

YOUTH AND CHILDREN

Music & Movement is changing to Playtime!

by Sabina Spicer, Director of Youth and Children's Ministries

Playtime! will be in the nursery every Thursday morning and one Saturday a month from 9-10AM. All little ones are invited to come and hear a story, sing some songs, and definitely play! Can't wait to see you there!

Young Adults

by Sabina Spicer

On the afternoon of New Year's Eve, I got to spend time with three of our recent high school graduates. We shared pastries, hot cocoa (really bad hot cocoa to be honest 😞) and played a loud game of "Taco Cat Goat Cheese Pizza." As always, it's a pleasure to see your smiles and hear all about what is happening in your lives. Keep up the good work and let's get together again soon!

After the evening Christmas Eve worship service, there was tour of the new bathrooms and kitchen, as well as the updated Head Start spaces. Young adults Grant Didway, Colton Freeman, Coleman Neher, and Lanie Neher enjoyed reminiscing in the nursery and enrichment rooms.



Nursery Volunteers Needed

by Sabina Spicer

We are looking for volunteers to be on a standby list of nursery helpers. Occasionally the nursery staff is out and there must be two adults in there to welcome and watch the smallest of us. This is not a commitment to any set day, but if the need arises, you'll be asked if you can help out. Your participation will be appreciated! Email me if you are interested, youth@milwaukiepres.org.

CALENDAR - FEBRUARY 2024

SUN	MON	TUES	WED	THURS	FRI	SAT
				1 9 am Playtime!	2 7 pm AA	3
4 10 am Worship w/Communion 12:30 pm Deacons Mtg 5 pm Chili Cook-Off	5 10 am Personnel Mtg	6 8 am Men's Group	7 12 pm Bible Conversation Group 7 pm Choir	8 9 am Playtime!	9 7 pm AA	10 9 am Second Saturday
11 10 am Worship	12 7 pm Courageous Conversations	13 8 am Men's Group	14 12 pm Bible Conversation Group 7 pm Ash Wednesday Worship 7:45 pm Choir <small>Ash Wednesday & Valentine's Day</small>	15 9 am Playtime!	16 7 pm AA	17 9 am Playtime! 11:30 am Sharon Smith Celebration of Life
18 10 am Worship After Worship Fellowship Art Project	19 *Office Closed* <i>President's Day</i>	20 8 am Men's Group 7 pm Session	21 12 pm Bible Conversation Group 7 pm Choir	22 9 am Playtime!	23 7 pm AA	24
25 10 am Worship 6 pm Online Lenten Dinner 7:15 pm Membership Class	26 11:30 am Worship Mtg 7 pm Courageous Conversations	27 8 am Men's Group 10:30 am Outreach Mtg	28 Backpack Buddies Distribution 12 pm Bible Conversation Group 7 pm Choir	29 9 am Playtime!		

Zoom meeting login and links:

[Worship Services](#) (Meeting ID: 309 450 149, Passcode: 940126)

[Bible Conversation Group](#) (Meeting ID: 839 8936 5187, Passcode: 216802)

[Courageous Conversations](#) (Meeting ID: 892 3674 0770, Passcode: 686553)